Steps to protect minorities in J&K

3407. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of J&K has appraised the Centre with regard to step taken to protect the minorities in the region during March, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there was any request from the Chief Minister to deploy more security forces in J&K; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to rehabilitate the families of the victims at Chattisinghpura village in Kashmir Valley?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) To fight terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, two Unified Headquarters are functioning in the State directly under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister, J&K. The UHQs meet under his Chairmanship from time to time to discuss threadbare all security related aspects including protection of minorities, assessment of requirement of deployment of security forces and operations against the terrorists.

(d) Relief assistance is provided by the State Government to the families of those killed in terrorists action in accordance with the norms fixed by them. As per the information made available by State Government, payment of ex-gratia to the next of kin of the 35 persons killed at Chattisinghpura village on the 20th March, 2000 has since been got made. Besides, one person from each of these families has been provided with a Government job.

Talks with Hurriyat Leaders

3408. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY:
SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the offer of talks by the Ministry to the Hurriyat leaders to bring peace in Jammu & Kashmir has been rejected by them;

(b) whether the demand of the Hurriyat leaders for a tripartite talks will be accepted by Government; and

(c) what concrete steps his Ministry would take to conduct talks within the Indian Constitution and to protect national interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No such offer has been made to separatist organisations.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) During his visit J&K on 26-27 July, 1997, the then Prime Minister had made an appeal to the misguided youth of the State, who have joined the militant ranks, to give up their guns, and said that the Government was prepared to have unconditions talks with them, to enable them to rejoin the mainstream. The Government is committed to the said offer of talks, within the constitutional frame work.

Land lord forced to sell house At Gunpoint

3409. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item 'Armed men force landlord to sell house at gunpoint' appearing in the "Times of India" dated the 14th January, 2000; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and what steps are proposed to be taken to control effectively such brazen attempts to forcibly take possession of property and create serious threats to life and property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A case was registered on 13th January, 2000 at Rajender Nagar Police Station after preliminary verification of the complaint received on 12th January, 2000. Three of the accused were arrested and released on bail by the Court. The three other accused persons are on interim bail.

Delhi Police has been making concerted efforts for prevention of such crimes. All Station House Officers have been directed to pay personal attention to the complaints of criminal trespass. Property dealers suspected to be involved in such nefarious dealing are kept under close surveillance and their antecedents are verified and scrutinized.